

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01470 222303Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4756

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1470

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN CREOLE

1. SPEAKING EXTENSIVELY IN CREOLE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PUBLIC, PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER PUT AN END TODAY TO SPECULATION HE WOULD MODIFY HAITI'S SYSTEM OF PRESIDENCY-FOR-LIFE. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, GIVEN TO LARGE CROWD IN FRONT OF PALACE, PREPARED FROM NOTES TAKEN DURING RADIO BROADCAST. COMMENT ON THIS SPEECH AND SUBSEQUENT FORMAL ADDRESS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN RESUME OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, APRIL 22, 1977 IN CREOLE. SINCE MY SPEECH AT JACMEL, I HAVE HEARD ALL KINDS OF COMMENTS. I HAVE KEPT IN MIND ALL OF THEM. TODAY, HOWEVER, LET ME GIVE YOU A POLITICAL AND DOCTRINAL LESSON. KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN.

3. CONCERNING THE PRESIDENCY FOR LIFE, I HAVE NOT BEEN ANIMATED BY POLITICAL AMBITION. BUT, YOU GAVE ME THE POWER. I AM EXECUTING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, AS DID MY PREDECESSOR. I AM TODAY IN FRONT OF YOU. DON'T YOU AGREE WITH ME? DON'T YOU AGREE WITH ME? (CLAMOR FROM THE AUDIENCE) WELL.

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4. I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND ME AND I UNDERSTAND YOU. LIKE FRANCOIS DUVALIER, I WON'T BE LECTURED TO (M'PA PRAN PRIE) AND I WILL MAINTAIN AN UNBENDING ATTITUDE (RAIDE KON QUEUE MACAQUE -- STIFF AS THE TAIL OF A MONKEY).

5. PEOPLE CAN JUDGE EVERY ACTION OF MY GOVERNMENT.
SPEAKING FRENCH IS NOT A SIGN OF EDUCATION. I HAVE
PROVED THAT I WANT CHANGES. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
HAITIANS WHO UNDERSTAND THAT CHANGES DO NOT MEAN
TURNING EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN.

6. A REVOLUTION IS LIKE A CEMENT BUILDING. WOODEN
POSTS CAN'T COMPARE WITH THOSE OF CONCRETE. WHEN A
CHIEF IS ORGANIZING A COUNTRY, HE CAN'T PASS ON POWER
EVERY 5, 6, OR 7 YEARS. A GOOD RIDER DOES NOT CHANGE
HIS HORSE IN MID-STREAM.

7. SOME COUNTRIES HAVE A KING OR QUEEN, ACCORDING TO
THEIR CONDITIONS. HERE, WE HAVE A PRESIDENCY FOR LIFE.
ONE CAN'T DECREE MODIFICATIONS IN ONLY ONE DAY.

8. NOW, YOU CAN GO HOME. YOUR PRESIDENT IS WORKING
FOR YOU. END RESUME.
ISHAM

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